

Art Unit 3749

Specification

The amendments to the specification filed by Applicant in his last response have been entered.

Drawings

The amended drawings now identifying the insulating material of the Claims have been accepted by the Examiner.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC 112, first paragraph

The Examiner rejects Claim 59 under 35 USC 112, citing that the Claim contains subject matter not described in the specification such as to reasonably convey to one skilled in the relevant art that the Inventor, at the time the application was filed, had possession of the claimed invention. This of course is incorrect.

The Examiner continues by further stating incorrectly that a fuel consisting of a suspended coal dust or coal dust slurry cannot be considered a FLUID hydrocarbon fuel.

Applicant must draw the Examiner's attention to the fact that Applicant has made definite multiple references in the description under the term FLUID HYDROCARBON FUEL, and Applicant will further argue and prove that a fuel consisting of a combination of air and coal dust is considered a FLUID HYDROCARBON FUEL and can no longer be considered a solid fuel. Applicant is at a loss when trying to follow the Examiner reasoning that a FLUID hydrocarbon fuel was not referenced in the description. Furthermore, as it is proper in the Claims of a disclosure to provide limitations to any broader element disclosed previously in a disclosure, such element being the FLUID HYDROCARBON FUEL, and the limitation being a COAL FLUID MIXTURE.

Applicant will cite a number of examples relating to issued Patents in which a fuel mixtures consisting of suspended coal dust are designated as a fluid fuel.

Art Unit 3749

In fact, as any person skilled in the art would know, since the mid 1970s a fluid coal dust mixture is considered a CONVENTIONAL FLUID HYDROCARBON FUEL, because from that period on, most coal combustion processes and mechanisms were automated and only coal dust fluid mixtures were used to operate coal fired combustors.

Following are issued US Patents for the process of producing fluid coal fuel, which must be considered a fluid hydrocarbon fuel in the true word.

In US Patent No: 4,089,773, issued May 16, 1978, Espenscheid disclosed the Invention of "**Liquefaction of solid carbonaceous materials**", the Abstract of which reads as follows:

Abstract

This invention provides an improved process for solubilizing coal and other solid carbonaceous materials which involves heating a slurry of comminuted carbonaceous material and liquefaction solvent in contact with water, carbon monoxide, and a catalytic quantity of alkanol to produce a heavy oil or bitumen composition.

In US Patent No: 4,108,758, issued August 22, 1978, Schoennagel , et al. discloses the Invention of "**Conversion of coal into liquid fuels**", the Abstract of which reads as follows:

Abstract

This invention provides an improved process for deriving liquid fuels from coal which involves the steps of (1) solubilizing coal in a FCC residual oil to form a solvated coal solution phase and an ash solids phase; (2) subjecting the two phase admixture to FCC conversion conditions; (3) separating and recovering a hydrocarbon phase and a catalyst-ash solids phase; (4) treating the catalyst-ash solids phase in a catalyst regeneration zone, and removing entrained ash solids from the flue gas effluent of the catalyst regeneration zone; and (5) fractionating the hydrocarbon phase to recover liquid fuel products.

In US Patent No: 4,159,857, issued July 3, 1979, Doehlert discloses the Invention of "**Producing fluid fuel from coal**", the Abstract of which reads as follows: